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5-6-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Serial No

: Oswald SATZGER et al.

: 10/050,132

Examiner: Unknown

Group Art Unit: 3721

Filed

: January 18, 2002

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration during the examination of the instant application:

Applicants submit herewith a copy of the German Search Report (in German) conducted in German Application No. 101 02 535.1, which is a counterpart of the instant application. In particular the German Examiner cited:

- (1) DE 694 22 984 T2, which is cited as an "X" category document (i.e. indicating lack of novelty). In particular, the German Examiner indicated that Fig. 2 was relevant to claim 1 of the German Application;
 - (2) US 6,030,499 is a counterpart of DE 694 22 984 T2; and
 - (3) DE 92 05 636 U1, which is cited as an "Y" category document (i.e. indicating lack

P21737.A02

of inventive step). In particular, the German Examiner indicated that Fig. 5 was relevant to

claim 1 of the German Application.

Copies of the above-listed documents (including the German Search Report) are

enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents.

Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such

consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first

official communication.

Applicants note that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three

months from the filing date and before receiving a first action on the merits from the U.S.

Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents is

required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(1).

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at

the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

Oswald SATZGER et al.

Rg. No. 45, 294

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Reg. No. 28,394

April 15, 2002

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